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Sewer User Fees

Authority: Rhode Island Public Law 1962, Chapter 254 (as amended) created the Warwick Sewer Authority (WSA) and directs the WSA to:

“provide that annual charges shall be made upon the owner of the lands using the sewer works and that sewer assessments shall be made upon the owners of lands for which the use of sewage works is available. The sewer authority may further provide that connect capable charges shall be made upon property owners whose property is abutting on that portion of any highway in which a common sewer is laid, while said property remains unconnected to the city’s sewage system.”

In addition, the Law states:

“Annual charges shall be levied upon every property owner or institution whose property is connected to the City’s sewage system. The charge will be computed based upon water consumption or other factors deemed equitable by the sewer authority. The annual charge should be set at a level sufficient to support operation and maintenance costs of the wastewater treatment plant, the renewal and replacement fund and the principal and interest for any bonds or notes issued for the sewage works.”

The WSA enabling legislation is included in the City of Warwick Code of Ordinances.

In addition, the WSA has adopted Rules and Regulations that govern sewer use and user and assessment and other fees can charges. Specifically, Regulations 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, and 52 define the sewer user charges and their requirements. A copy of these Rules and Regulations are available from the Warwick Sewer Authority.

Purpose: Customers of the Warwick sewer system are charged a sewer user fee by the Warwick Sewer Authority. This fee is to support the operation and maintenance for the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility, located at 125 Arthur W. Devine Blvd, over 40 wastewater pumping stations and several hundred miles of sanitary sewers. The WSA operates as an Enterprise Fund within the City of Warwick. Fees, charges and assessments levied by the WSA are used only for the operation, programs and activities of the WSA.

User Fee Structure: There are two classes of users: Residential and Commercial (including industrial).

The WSA sewer user fee is made of two components: a fixed fee and a consumption-based fee. For residential users, the consumption-based fee is based on 85% of the water consumed at a property as measured by the property's water meter(s). For Commercial users, consumption is billed at 100% of water consumed (see deduct meter options below).

The present rates for the two classes are as follows:

	Residential		Commercial	
	Service Charge	Consumption Fee	Consumption Fee	Service Charge
	Per Unit	Per 1000cf @ 85% of water consumption	Per 1000cf @ 100% of water consumption	Per Unit
Annual Rate	\$56.78	\$23.89	\$31.69	\$56.78
Quarterly Rate	\$14.195	\$23.89	\$31.69	\$14.195

Deduct Meters: Customers that use water that is not discharged to the sewer system may have a "Deduct" meter installed to define that amount of water not discharged. Residential users are already provided with a 15% credit for water not discharged. If a Deduct meter is used, then 100% of the volume discharged to the sewer system will be used to calculate the user fee.

To have a Deduct meter installed, contact the Warwick Water Division at 401-738-2000, ext. 6601

Frequency of Billings: User fees are billed on a quarterly basis, in September, December, March, and June, along with the water charges on a combined Utility Billing.

Minor Corrections to Billings: Minor corrections may be made by providing the basis for the correction to the WSA. Call 401-468-4731

Late Payment: Payment is due and payable within 60 days of receipt of the bill. Payments received after that are assessed an interest penalty at the rate of 12% per year.